MARVEL COMICS
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
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FLYING BLIND
PART 4
LOBDELL
HAMNER
MARTIN
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FACE TO FACE WITH THE TRUTH!

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
Stan Lee PRESENTS
FLYING
BLIND
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COLORS
THIS IS
>URMP<
NOT GOING AS WELL AS I PLANNED.
RS & COMICRAFT'S LIZ AGRAPHIOTIS
LETTERS
TIM TUOHY
EDITOR
BOB HARRAS
CHIEF
4 OF 4

APPARENTLY, THE BIG GUY'S NAME IS WILSON FISK.

HE'S CALLED THE KINGPIN.

ME? I'D BE COMFORTABLE CALLING HIM REALLY FAT GUY STANDING ON MY THROAT --

-- BUT AS IT IS, I'M IN NO POSITION TO TALK JUST NOW.

OW.

THE MAN NAMED SYNAPSE IS JUST THIS MOMENT COMING AROUND.

WITH ANY LUCK, I HURT HIM BADLY ENOUGH THAT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO USE HIS MIND ALTERING BIO-ELECTRIC POWERS ON ME.

THEN AGAIN... MAYBE I COULD USE AN ENTIRELY NEW PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE.

CERTAINLY REALITY ISN'T SUCH A JOY TO BEHOLD AT THIS VERY MOMENT.

K-KILL HIM, FISK! HE KNOWS TOO MUCH.

EVENTUALLY.

BUT BEFORE I DO, I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IT IS ABOUT THIS MAN THAT IS SO ACHINGLY... FAMILIAR.

HIS UNIFORM INDICATES HE IS AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. --[b]

-- BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY HE MOVES, THE WAY HE FIGHTS. ALMOST AS IF HE IS --

SAY IT!

WHAT AM I?

WHO AM I?!

BUT, NO... THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE.

[b] STRATEGIC HAZARD INTERVENTION ESPIONAGE LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE

HAVE I USED THE WORD FRUSTRATED YET?

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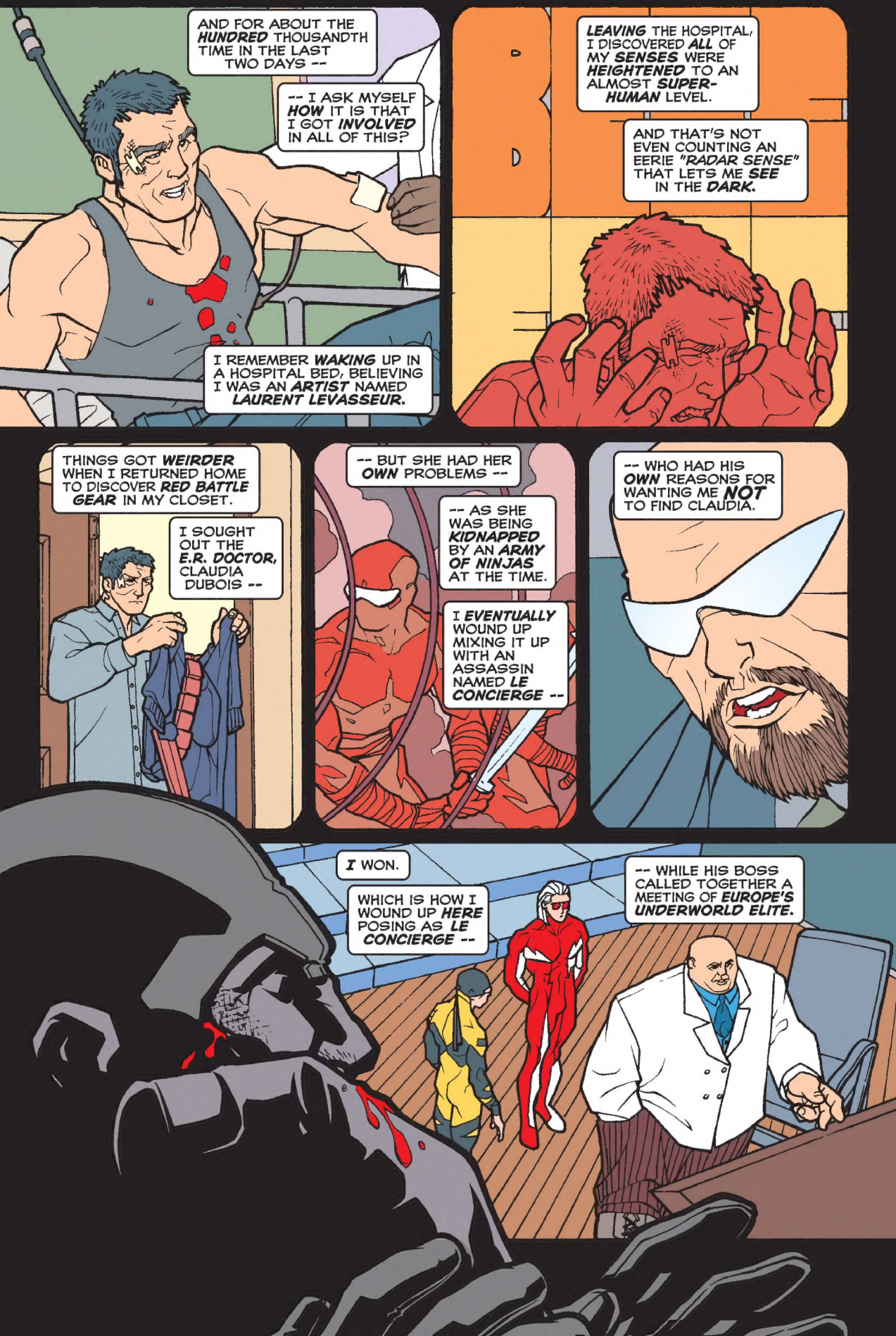
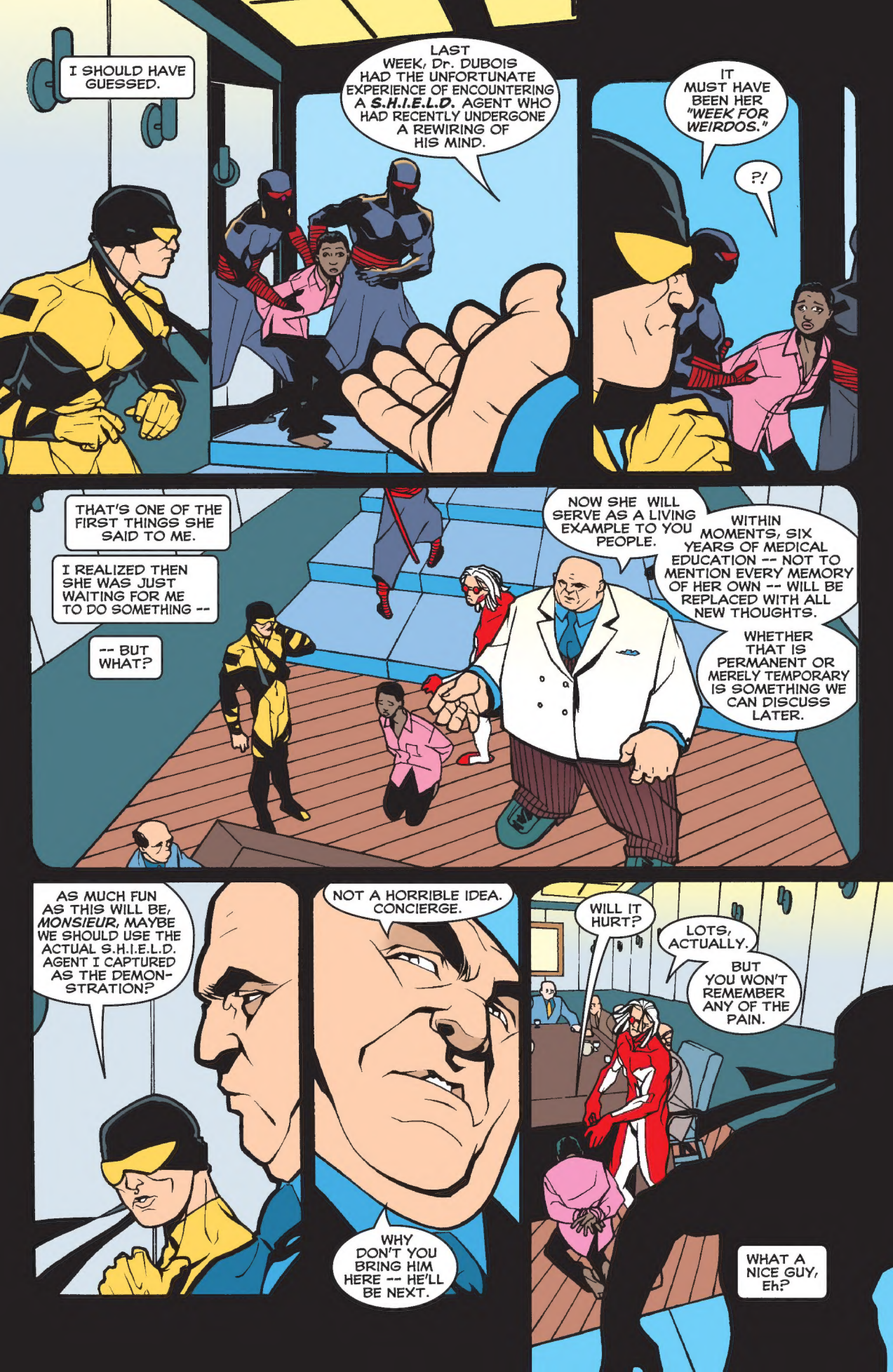
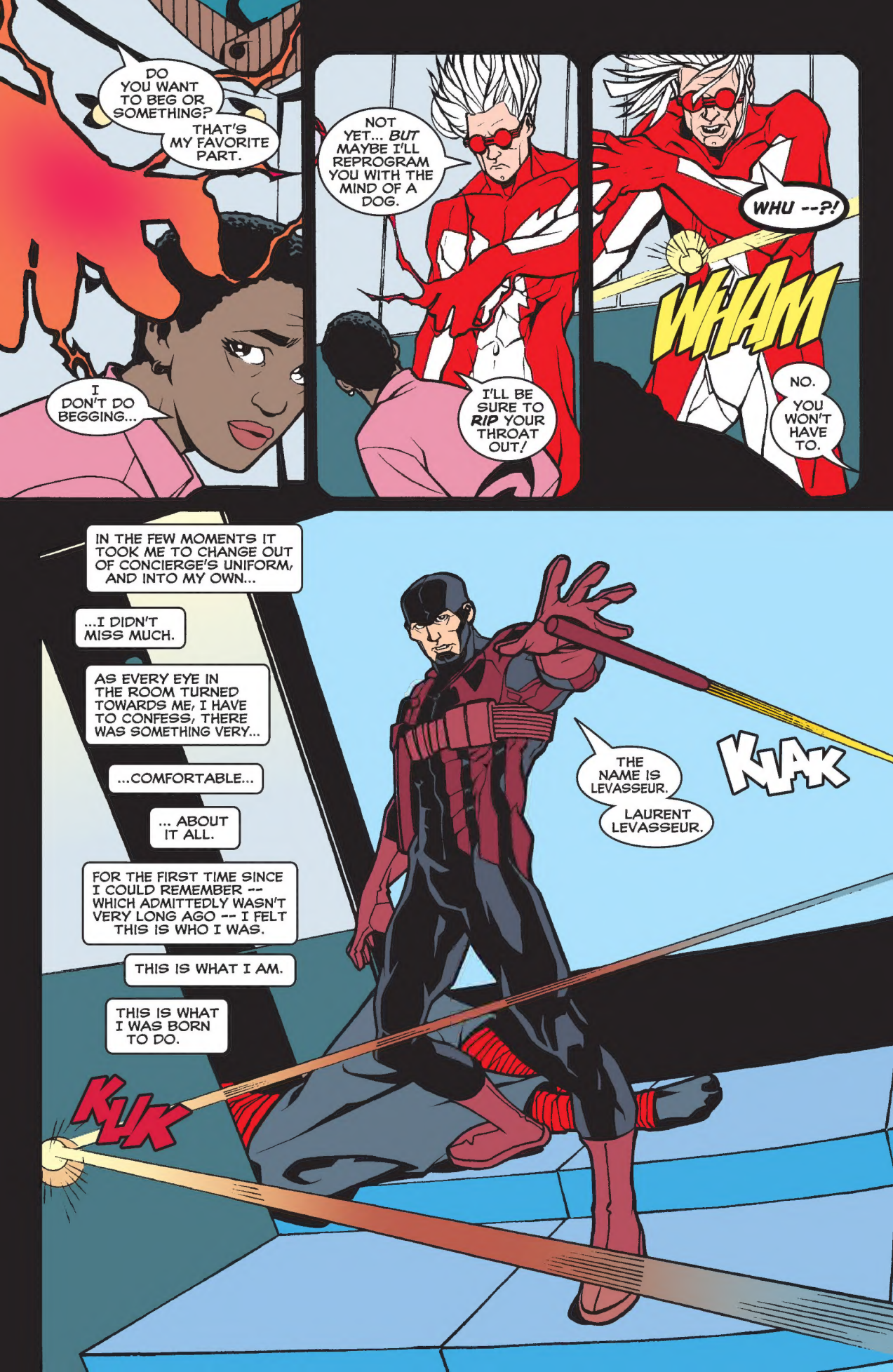

AND FOR ABOUT THE HUNDRED THOUSANDTH TIME IN THE LAST TWO DAYS --
-- I ASK MYSELF HOW IT IS THAT I GOT INVOLVED IN ALL OF THIS?
I REMEMBER WAKING UP IN A HOSPITAL BED, BELIEVING I WAS AN ARTIST NAMED LAURENT LEVASSEUR.
LEAVING THE HOSPITAL, I DISCOVERED ALL OF MY SENSES WERE HEIGHTENED TO AN ALMOST SUPER-HUMAN LEVEL.
AND THAT'S NOT EVEN COUNTING AN EERIE "RADAR SENSE" THAT LETS ME SEE IN THE DARK.
THINGS GOT WEIRDER WHEN I RETURNED HOME TO DISCOVER RED BATTLE GEAR IN MY CLOSET.
I SOUGHT OUT THE E.R. DOCTOR, CLAUDIA DUBOIS --
-- BUT SHE HAD HER OWN PROBLEMS --
-- AS SHE WAS BEING KIDNAPPED BY AN ARMY OF NINJAS AT THE TIME.
I EVENTUALLY WOUND UP MIXING IT UP WITH AN ASSASSIN NAMED LE CONCIERGE --
-- WHO HAD HIS OWN REASONS FOR WANTING ME NOT TO FIND CLAUDIA.
I WON.
WHICH IS HOW I WOUND UP HERE POSING AS LE CONCIERGE --
-- WHILE HIS BOSS CALLED TOGETHER A MEETING OF EUROPE'S UNDERWORLD ELITE.

EVEN THOUGH HE'S AMERICAN, HE CLEARLY HAD THE ATTENTION OF SOME OF EUROPE'S MOST INFLUENTIAL MOVERS AND SHAKERS.
THERE IS NO NEED FOR INTRODUCTIONS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IN PART BECAUSE NONE OF YOU WISH TO BE IDENTIFIED.
LET IT SUFFICE TO SAY YOU ARE SOME OF THE MOST "POWERFUL" PEOPLE IN YOUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.
FOR YEARS, YOU HAVE BEEN AT THE MERCY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS S.H.I.E.L.D. --
-- WHO HAVE TAKEN GREAT PAINS TO INSURE YOUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE EXPANDED NO FARTHER THAN YOUR OWN COUNTRY.
STRATEGIC HAZARD INTERVENTION ESPIONAGE LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE
SO I HAD HEARD.
THAT ENDS TONIGHT.
THAT IS IT ENDS TONIGHT FOR THOSE WILLING TO PAY MY PRICE.

FOR YEARS, S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS HAD A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE IN TERMS OF TECHNOLOGY -- THE LIKES OF WHICH COULD RECALIBRATE A HUMAN BRAIN WITH MANY DIFFERENT SIDE EFFECTS.
NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS CREATING UNDERCOVER IDENTITIES SO DEFINED THAT EVEN THE MOST SKILLED PSION COULD NOT PENETRATE THEIR COVER IDENTITIES.
GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE SHAVED.
YOU OKAY, BUDDY? YOU DON'T LOOK SO HOT.
AS THE KINGPIN SPOKE, IT WAS AS IF I HAD HEARD THOSE WORDS BEFORE.
I WAS IN A ROOM...
"DAREDEVIL.." HE SAID...
"...DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY S.H.I.E.L.D. NEEDS YOU?"
I...GUESS THAT'S HOW I CAME TO BE WORKING UNDERCOVER FOR S.H.I.E.L.D. THIS WAY.
DEEP UNDERCOVER.
BUT... WHAT KIND OF NAME IS DAREDEVIL?
I HAVE DISCOVERED A WAY AROUND THAT TECHNOLOGY WITH THE USE OF A HUMAN BEING CAPABLE OF REIMPRINTING THE SYNAPSES OF A BRAIN.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MAX MULLINS, A FORMER S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT NAMED SYNAPSE.
HI, EVERY --
HE IS MY KEY TO UNDERMINDING ALL OF S.H.I.E.L.D.'S EUROPEAN OPERATIONS.
WELL, MAYBE NOT ALL OF THEM...
SPLENDID SHOW, OLD MAN.
SO, HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO COST US?
25% OF EVERY ENDEAVOR IN WHICH YOU'RE INVOLVED.
AND BEFORE YOU BALK AT THAT MODEST SUM, LET ME OFFER AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THIS PROCESS WORKS...

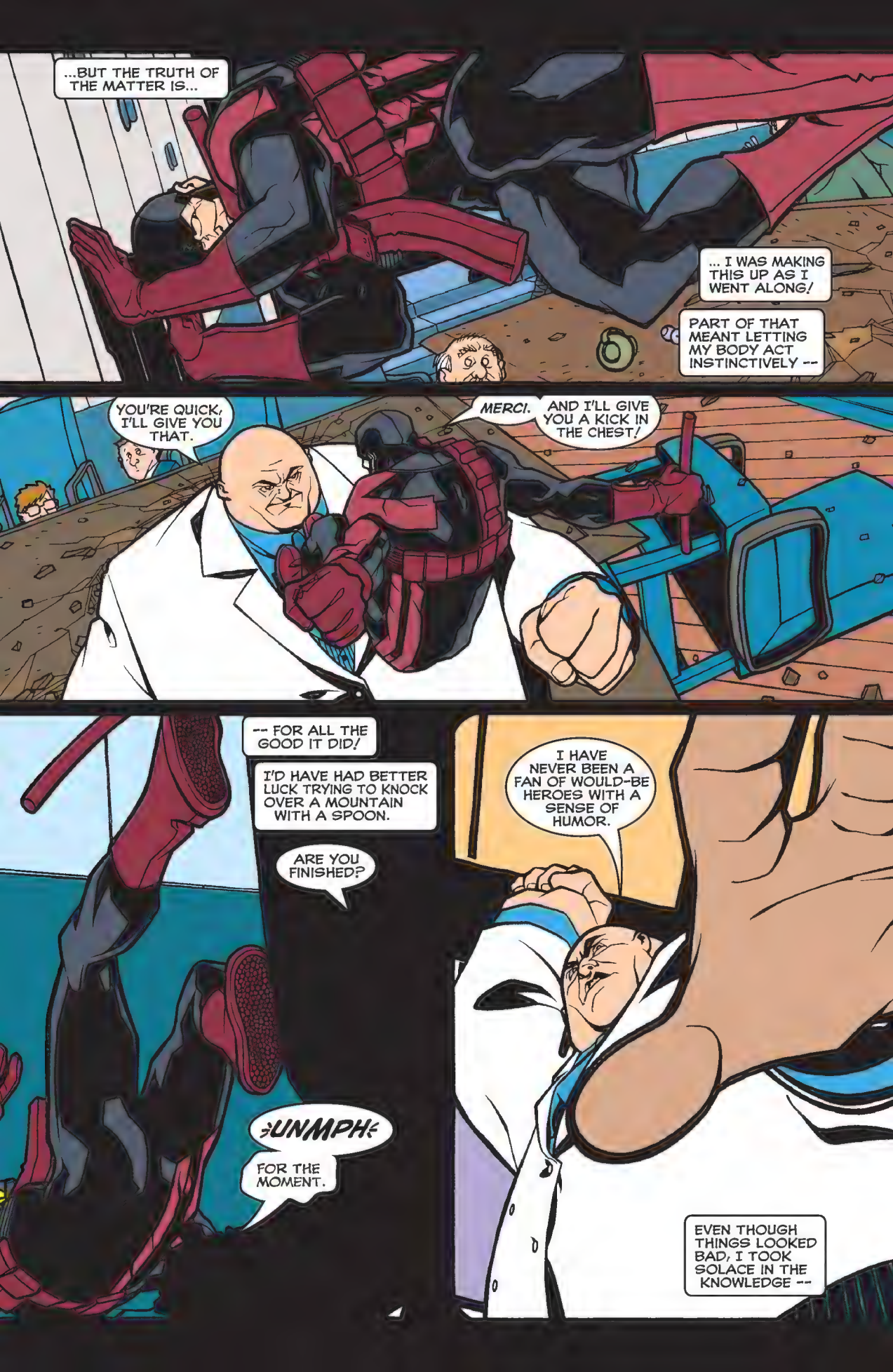

I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED.
LAST WEEK, Dr. DUBOIS HAD THE UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE OF ENCOUNTERING A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT WHO HAD RECENTLY UNDERGONE A REWIRING OF HIS MIND.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HER "WEEK FOR WEIRDOS."
?!
THAT'S ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS SHE SAID TO ME.
I REALIZED THEN SHE WAS JUST WAITING FOR ME TO DO SOMETHING --
-- BUT WHAT?
NOW SHE WILL SERVE AS A LIVING EXAMPLE TO YOU PEOPLE.
WITHIN MOMENTS, SIX YEARS OF MEDICAL EDUCATION -- NOT TO MENTION EVERY MEMORY OF HER OWN -- WILL BE REPLACED WITH ALL NEW THOUGHTS.
WHETHER THAT IS PERMANENT OR MERELY TEMPORARY IS SOMETHING WE CAN DISCUSS LATER.
AS MUCH FUN AS THIS WILL BE, MONSIEUR, MAYBE WE SHOULD USE THE ACTUAL S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT I CAPTURED AS THE DEMONSTRATION?
NOT A HORRIBLE IDEA. CONCIERGE.
WHY DON'T YOU BRING HIM HERE -- HE'LL BE NEXT.
WILL IT HURT?
LOTS, ACTUALLY.
BUT YOU WON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THE PAIN.
WHAT A NICE GUY, Eh?


DO YOU WANT TO BEG OR SOMETHING?
THAT'S MY FAVORITE PART.
I DON'T DO BEGGING...
NOT YET... BUT MAYBE I'LL REPROGRAM YOU WITH THE MIND OF A DOG.
I'LL BE SURE TO RIP YOUR THROAT OUT!
WHU --?!
WHAM
NO. YOU WON'T HAVE TO.
IN THE FEW MOMENTS IT TOOK ME TO CHANGE OUT OF CONCIERGE'S UNIFORM, AND INTO MY OWN...
...I DIDN'T MISS MUCH.
AS EVERY EYE IN THE ROOM TURNED TOWARDS ME, I HAVE TO CONFESS, THERE WAS SOMETHING VERY...
...COMFORTABLE...
... ABOUT IT ALL.
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I COULD REMEMBER -- WHICH ADMITTEDLY WASN'T VERY LONG AGO -- I FELT THIS IS WHO I WAS.
THIS IS WHAT I AM.
THIS IS WHAT I WAS BORN TO DO.
KLIK
THE NAME IS LEVASSEUR.
LAURENT LEVASSEUR.
KLAK

I SEE YOUR HANDS ARE BUSY --
-- SO I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO EXCUSE MY FEET!
KRAK
WOULPHN!
HOW DID YOU --?!
NO TIME FOR DETAILS!
WHAK
GO THROUGH THAT DOOR, UP THOSE STAIRS, AND CALL THE POLICE!
TRY TO REACH S.H.I.E.L.D., TELL THEM EVERYTHING YOU KNOW!
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU HERE!
GO, NOW! DOCTOR'S ORDERS!
BUT I'M THE DOCTOR!
DON'T SWEAT THE DETAILS.
YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!
I DOUBT IT. HE'S THAT PASTY-FACED GUY IN THE RED TIGHTS, RIGHT?
NEVER READ HIM.

...INSTEAD, I THROW MYSELF INTO THE CENTER OF IT ALL!
SOMEONE -- ANYONE -- GET HIM!
GET ME? NICE THOUGHT. BUT...
...WHAT DO YOU GET...
... THE GUY WHO HAS...
...EVERYTHING?
Oh WAIT -- I GOT IT:
YOU CAN ALL TURN YOURSELVES IN TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES --
-- I COULD TAKE THE CREDIT AND LAND AN EXCLUSIVE TELL-ALL BOOK DEAL --
-- AND WE ALL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!

THAT SOUND --?!
WHY COULDN'T ANYONE ELSE HEAR IT?
TO ME -- IT WAS AS IF SOMEONE WAS CARRYING A JACKHAMMER INTO THE ROOM.
BUT AS IT WAS --
-- IT TURNED OUT MY HYPERHEARING WAS PICKING UP THE SOUND OF KINGPIN ABOUT TO STRIKE!
YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE INTERFERED IN AFFAIRS THAT ARE NONE OF YOUR CONCERN, Mr. LEVASSEUR.
YOU KNOW US FRENCH -- NATURALLY CURIOUS.
WHAM
I TRIED TO SOUND CASUAL...


...BUT THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS...
... I WAS MAKING THIS UP AS I WENT ALONG!
PART OF THAT MEANT LETTING MY BODY ACT INSTINCTIVELY --
YOU'RE QUICK, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
MERCI. AND I'LL GIVE YOU A KICK IN THE CHEST!
-- FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DID!
I'D HAVE HAD BETTER LUCK TRYING TO KNOCK OVER A MOUNTAIN WITH A SPOON.
ARE YOU FINISHED?
I HAVE NEVER BEEN A FAN OF WOULD-BE HEROES WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR.
:UNMPH:
FOR THE MOMENT.
EVEN THOUGH THINGS LOOKED BAD, I TOOK SOLACE IN THE KNOWLEDGE --

-- THAT CLAUDIA, AT LEAST, WAS SAFE.
I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER DETAILS, OFFICER!
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW!
NOW, PLEASE, WE NEED YOUR HELP! MY FRIEND IS STILL TRAPPED THERE WITH A BUNCH OF LUNATICS WITH GUNS!
PLEASE, OFFICER -- WE NEED HELP! GOT IT?!
SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY...
TO THINK, YESTERDAY I WAS SEARCHING THE CITY STREETS FOR MY BEST FRIEND, MATT MURDOCK --
-- AND TODAY I'M COOLING MY HEELS IN A PARIS POLICE STATION AS SHIELD USES ALL THEIR CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE TO TRACK DOWN MATT'S ALTER EGO, DAREDEVIL!
I'D LIKE TO SAY I WAS HOPEFUL, BUT...
AND NOTHING AT THE LOCAL HOSPITALS?
NOT BASED ON YOUR DESCRIPTION, NO. BUT THERE WAS A --
AGENT SENYAKA?
WE JUST RECEIVED A PARTICULARLY STRANGE TELEPHONE CALL FROM A WOMAN WHO MENTIONED S.H.I.E.L.D.!
!
THIS COULD BE THE BREAK WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

ALL OF WHICH BRINGS US PRETTY MUCH UP TO SPEED.
SO, NOW I KNOW HOW I GOT HERE...
...THE TRICK NOW IS FIGURING HOW TO GET OUT OF THIS MESS.
IF ONLY I COULD REMEMBER WHO I AM...
...I CAN'T HELP THINKING THAT WOULD MAKE ALL OF THIS SO MUCH EASIER!
NOT THAT THIS HASN'T BEEN A BLAST, MONSIEUR FISK, BUT I REALLY MUST BE --
NO ONE LEAVES.
-- I REALLY MUST BE SITTING BACK DOWN AND ENJOYING THE SHOW. SIR.
MAX, USE YOUR SYNAPSE DISRUPTING POWER TO SHOW OUR GUESTS HERE THAT THEIR RESOURCES WOULD BE WELL SPENT ON THIS ENDEAVOR.
GLADLY, BOSS.
I OWE THIS GUY FOR MAKING ME LOOK STUPID.
WHY DO I GET THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION...
...THIS IS THE LAST THE WORLD WILL EVER KNOW --
-- OF LAURENT LEVASSEUR?

WHOA.

IT'S LIKE LICKING AN ELECTRIC BLANKET WHILE STANDING IN A BUCKET OF ICE WATER.

I'M ASSUMING ANYWAY.

IN WHAT FEELS LIKE LESS THAN A FRACTION OF AN INSTANT OF A MOMENT --

-- MY ENTIRE LIFE FLASHES BEFORE ME.

MY ENTIRE LIFE.

MATT MURDOCK.

RINGSIDE.

CHEERING ON DAD.

BUT THE CONTAMINATION HAD POSITIVE EFFECTS.

SENSES HEIGHTENED BEYOND MY CONTROL.

SON?

CAN YOU HEAR ME, SON?

...YOU'RE A HERO, BOY.

WILSON FISK, KINGPIN OF CRIME.

THE ANTITHESIS OF EVERYTHING I BELIEVE IN.

I ALMOST LOST IT TO VENGEANCE.

SAVING THAT BLIND MAN...

... AT THE COST OF MY OWN EYESIGHT...

UNTIL *STICK* TAUGHT ME THAT CONTROL...

ELEKTRA...

LATER, I ALMOST LOST IT TO A FALL FROM GRACE.

I ULTIMATELY RETURNED TO THE COURTROOM.

... BLINDED BY THE TOXIC WASTE.

... AND MORE.

FOGGY NELSON, MY PARTNER.

KAREN PAGE, MY SECRETARY...

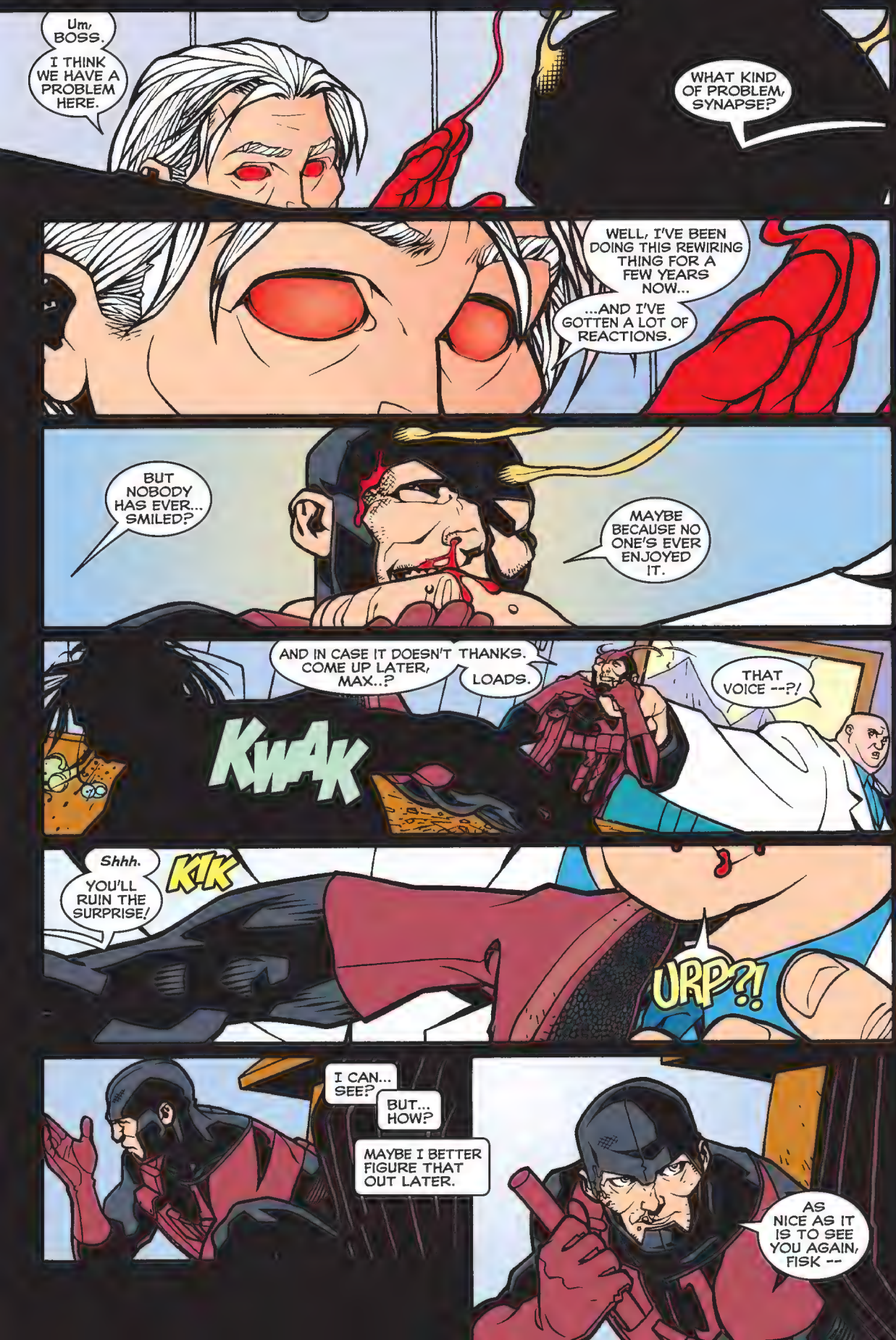
... A LOVE DOOMED BY DESTINY.

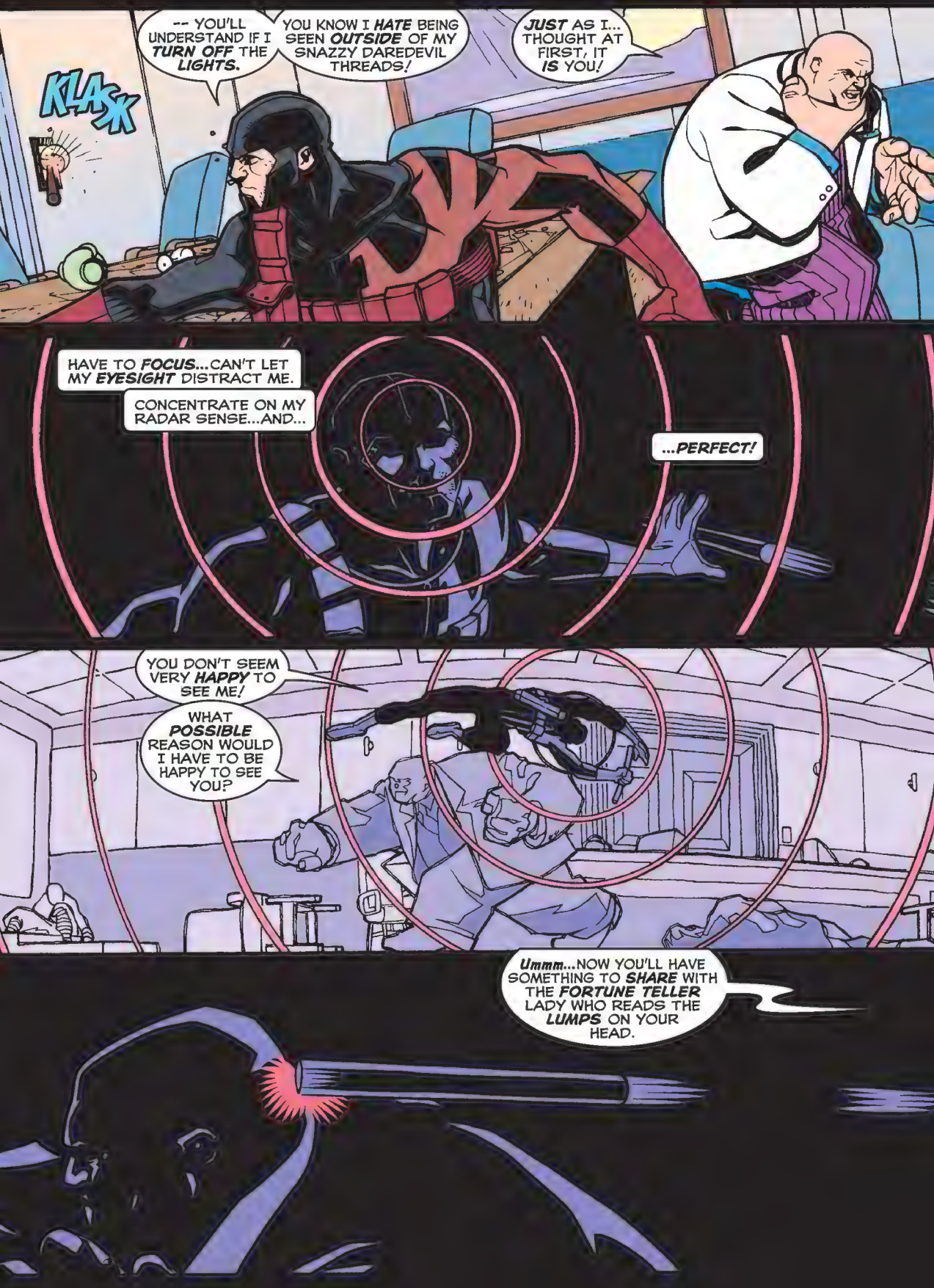
BULLSEYE.

LAWYER BY DAY...

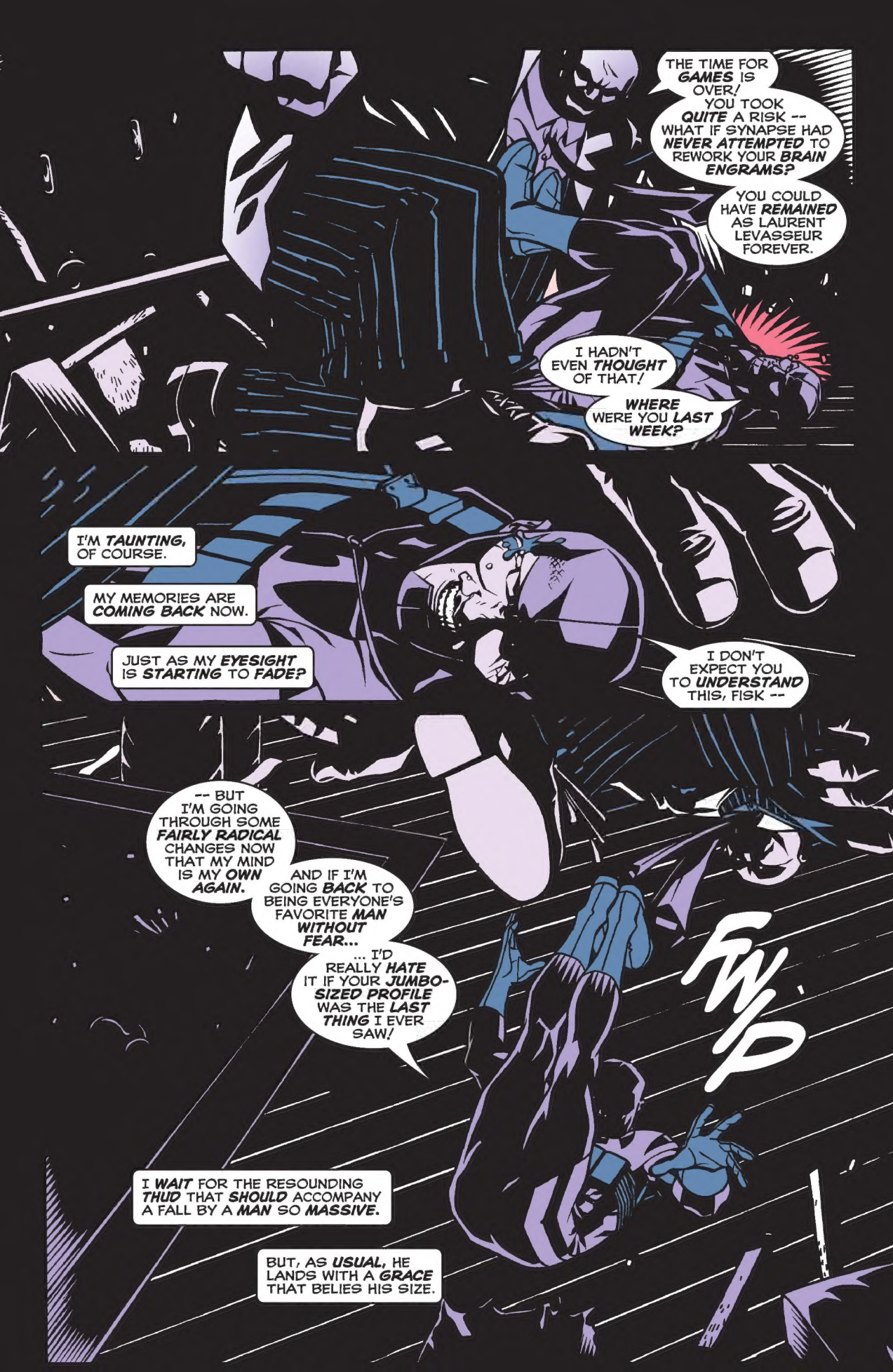
... *DAREDEVIL* -- THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR -- BY NIGHT!

THAT IS WHO I AM.


Um, BOSS.
I THINK WE HAVE A PROBLEM HERE.
WHAT KIND OF PROBLEM, SYNAPSE?
WELL, I'VE BEEN DOING THIS REWIRING THING FOR A FEW YEARS NOW...
...AND I'VE GOTTEN A LOT OF REACTIONS.
BUT NOBODY HAS EVER... SMILED?
MAYBE BECAUSE NO ONE'S EVER ENJOYED IT.
AND IN CASE IT DOESN'T COME UP LATER, MAX..?
THANKS. LOADS.
KWAK
THAT VOICE --?!
Shhh.
YOU'LL RUIN THE SURPRISE!
KIK
URP?!
I CAN... SEE?
BUT... HOW?
MAYBE I BETTER FIGURE THAT OUT LATER.
AS NICE AS IT IS TO SEE YOU AGAIN, FISK --


-- YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF I *TURN OFF* THE *LIGHTS*.
YOU KNOW I *HATE* BEING SEEN *OUTSIDE* OF MY SNAZZY DAREDEVIL THREADS!
KLASK
JUST AS I... THOUGHT AT FIRST, IT *IS* YOU!
HAVE TO *FOCUS*...CAN'T LET MY *EYESIGHT* DISTRACT ME.
CONCENTRATE ON MY RADAR SENSE...AND...
...*PERFECT!*
YOU DON'T SEEM VERY *HAPPY* TO SEE ME!
WHAT *POSSIBLE* REASON WOULD I HAVE TO BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU?
Ummm...NOW YOU'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO *SHARE* WITH THE *FORTUNE TELLER* LADY WHO READS THE *LUMPS* ON YOUR HEAD.

I MUST ADMIT TO BEING IMPRESSED, DAREDEVIL, IF ONLY SLIGHTLY.
DESPITE THE OVERLY ELABORATE DISGUISE --
-- THE PHYSICAL ALTERATIONS TO YOUR APPEARANCE --
KK
-- EVEN THE DETAILED FRENCH PERSONA YOU HAVE ADOPTED --
-- YOU ARE AS PROFOUND AN IRRITATION AS EVER!
STOP -- YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH!
WULPHN!
WHAM
THIS EYESIGHT KEEPS PROVING TO BE A DISTRACTION!
DOWN AGAIN? WHY DO I GET THE SENSE YOU ARE AS CONFOUNDED BY YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN ALL OF THIS AS I AM?
COULD IT BE YOU'D ALREADY HAD YOUR MIND REWIRED BEFORE YOU GOT HERE?!
COULD IT BE YOU WERE WAITING FOR SYNAPSE TO MAKE HIS ATTEMPT, COUNTING ON HIM TO FREE YOU?
WOW, YOU'RE GOOD AT THIS.
CAN WE PLAY "TRUTH OR DARE" NEXT?
WH AM


THE TIME FOR GAMES IS OVER!
YOU TOOK QUITE A RISK -- WHAT IF SYNAPSE HAD NEVER ATTEMPTED TO REWORK YOUR BRAIN ENGRAMS?
YOU COULD HAVE REMAINED AS LAURENT LEVASSEUR FOREVER.
I HADN'T EVEN THOUGHT OF THAT!
WHERE WERE YOU LAST WEEK?
I'M TAUNTING, OF COURSE.
MY MEMORIES ARE COMING BACK NOW.
JUST AS MY EYESIGHT IS STARTING TO FADE?
I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THIS, FISK --
-- BUT I'M GOING THROUGH SOME FAIRLY RADICAL CHANGES NOW THAT MY MIND IS MY OWN AGAIN.
AND IF I'M GOING BACK TO BEING EVERYONE'S FAVORITE MAN WITHOUT FEAR...
... I'D REALLY HATE IT IF YOUR JUMBO-SIZED PROFILE WAS THE LAST THING I EVER SAW!
FWIP
I WAIT FOR THE RESOUNDING THUD THAT SHOULD ACCOMPANY A FALL BY A MAN SO MASSIVE.
BUT, AS USUAL, HE LANDS WITH A GRACE THAT BELIES HIS SIZE.

OR... DOES HE LAND AT ALL?!
I'M SUDDENLY DISTRACTED BY THE BRILLIANT LIGHTS WHICH NOW FLOOD THIS BOARDROOM --
-- MY EYES GROWING MORE SENSITIVE WITH EACH MOMENT!
EVERYONE FREEZE!
Um... BONSOIR?
WE MANAGED TO ROUND UP THE REST OF THE SO-CALLED MOVERS AND SHAKERS OF EUROPE'S CRIMINAL UNDERGROUND...
... BUT WHERE'S THE BIG KAHUNA -- THE KINGPIN?
LOOKS LIKE THE LOCAL HERO LET HIM GET AWAY.
IGNORE MY COLLEAGUES, SIR. I, FOR ONE, APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
YOU ARE DAREDEVIL, I PRESUME.
THE ONE AND ONLY.
WHERE'S AGENT HARLAN?
DEAD. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
HE WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO KNOW THAT HIS BROTHER'S DEATH LAST WEEK WASN'T IN VAIN.
AT LEAST YOU BROKE UP THIS PARTICULAR CRIME RING.
AND WE MANAGED TO CAPTURE THE KING --
DON'T EVEN BOTHER SAYING IT, TIA. HE'S NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.
HE NEVER IS... WHEN HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE.

IT IS SOMETIME LATER...
...AND THE LOCAL GENDARMES HAVE TAKEN ON THE TASK OF CLEAN-UP.
WHICH CLEARLY INCLUDES ME.
AGENT SENYAKA ASSURES ME THE CALLOGEN INJECTIONS TO MY NOSE, CHEEKS AND BROW WILL EVENTUALLY FADE --
-- RETURNING MY FACE TO ITS FORMER GLORY, SUCH AS IT IS.
A FEW SOLID RINSES AND I'LL EVEN HAVE MY FAMILIAR RED HAIR BACK AGAIN.
THOSE ARE THE EASY CHANGES.
I'D BE LYING IF I DIDN'T ADMIT I'LL MISS THE SIDE-EFFECT OF MY REWIRED MIND.
I'LL MISS BEING ABLE TO SEE AGAIN.
LAURENT?!
LAURENT -- YOU'RE ALIVE!
THAT'S... AS ALIVE ONE WAY OF AS I EVER PUTTING WAS. IT.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
Um... DAREDEVIL?
FOGGY.
NOTHING. IT'S NICE...
...TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

HE IS THE BEST FRIEND I HAVE EVER HAD.
EVERYTHING OKAY?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN HIM.
IT IS A GLANCE THAT ONLY LASTS A MOMENT.
YET...
EVERYTHING'S OKAY.
...IN A WAY...
...I KNOW IT WILL LAST A LIFETIME.
FINI